DOLJP103WOUSA

AMENDMENT TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the abstract, as follows:

~~A method of verifying the authenticity of goods includes generating one or more random codes and storing the one or more random codes in a database. The goods are then marked with one of the generated random codes such that each of the goods contain their own unique random code. Upon field checking and inventory of marked goods and comparing the codes on the marked goods to codes within the database, the authenticity of goods may be verified. Also, a system for verifying the authenticity of goods includes a database containing a plurality of unique random codes and an indication whether each of the unique random codes has been read, and a code reader or scanner for reading the code affixed to a good. The system further includes a computer apparatus or other electrical mechanism for comparing a read code to the unique random codes contained within the database such that upon comparison the comparing means indicates whether the read code is valid and if valid, whether it has been read previously on another good, thereby indicating the good's authenticity.~~

Method of verifying authenticity of goods uses combination codes that have a random portion and a non-random portion that includes at least a secret portion that is encrypted. The combination codes are encrypted and may be applied to goods and checked to determine authenticity of goods; the secret portion may be encrypted with a public key and can be decrypted, for example, using a corresponding private key. The authenticity may include whether or not a tax or duty has been paid. The checking may include checking, e.g., viewing the non-random portion of the decrypted combination code to determine whether it is the same as the non-random portion used to compose the combination code.